

**REMARKS**

An Office Action was mailed December 23, 2005.

After an election without traverse, claims 3-5, 12 and 15, are pending.

By the foregoing the non-elected claims, namely claims 1-2, 6-11, 13, 14, and 16 are withdrawn and claims 3, 5, and 12 are amended. No new matter has been added.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph**

Claim 4 stands 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The antecedent basis of claim 4 recites a "method," while the claim from which claim 4 depends recites a "process."

Claim 3 is amended to recite a method. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection.

Claims 3-5, 12, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,982,899 to Probst (Probst).

As now recited, the claimed method (claim 3), system (claim 5) and computer program (claim 12) comprise a first and a second encrypted version of the management encrypted by different encryption keys. The versions are decrypted and compared. When the comparison result indicates that the original and the decrypted versions are in a predetermined relationship, the system may be considered verified.

Support for the amendment may be found at pg. 18, lines 10 et al. The invention now claimed is a further protection from a malicious user who is trying to fool the verification process. In order to defeat both encrypted versions, the malicious user would need to spend considerably more time and effort to break two encrypted versions than one.

Probst does not teach, disclose or suggest the claimed invention. Probst teaches a system wherein an identifier that is unique and unchangeable is saved in an unalterable location such as the clock chip of the computer. 5:19-22. The identifier is used to encode a system configuration, which is then encrypted with a private key and is stored on a storage device. 5:34 et al., 3:27-29.

When verifying the system configuration the encrypted system data is retrieved from the data storage. Using a public key, the encrypted system data is decrypted and the configuration is read and the system configuration is determined from that. 3:48 et al.

However, Probst is silent with respect to reading an original version of management information and a first and a second encrypted version of this information from data storage and decrypting the encrypted versions, which were encrypted by different encryption keys, and validating the management information when the underlying information of both versions are in a predetermined relationship with the original version.


Probst teaches the use of only one encrypted data set, but is silent with respect to using two or more encrypted data sets. Thus, Probst fails to appreciate the presently claimed invention and its added security benefits.

All dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claim from which they depend.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, including any necessary extension fees, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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